

AmeriCorps State

The AmeriCorps Victim Assistance Program addresses critical public safety needs through community service and promotes a lifetime commitment to volunteerism. The AmeriCorps Victim Assistance Program is a multi-agency collaboration to ensure direct services are available to victims of domestic and sexual violence and stalking. AmeriCorps members serve as advocates, who are placed at crisis centers, police departments, prosecutor's offices, child advocacy centers, the New Hampshire Department of Corrections, the New Hampshire Department of Justice, and on college and university campuses throughout the state. Members provide support and education to victims of domestic and sexual violence and stalking before, during and after the court process. Members also provide outreach and education to over 2,000 people annually at schools, community agencies and at various organizations and groups.

City Year is an education-focused nonprofit organization founded in 1988 that partners with public schools to help keep students in school and on track to graduate. This innovative public-private partnership brings together teams of young AmeriCorps members who commit to a year of full-time service in schools. City Year New Hampshire corps members serve primarily in six elementary schools in Manchester. Each team supports students by focusing on the ABCs - attendance, behavior, and course performance. Evidence-based research has identified these early-warning indicators to identify the students likely to drop out of school. City Year AmeriCorps members provide one-on-one and group tutoring, mentoring, overall classroom support, and after school programs that help create an improved learning environment for students. In addition to their in-school service, members coordinate service projects and workshops for corporate and school partners. Through these efforts, City Year's work impacts children and communities in Manchester and across the Granite State.

AmeriCorps VISTA

After a very successful kickoff year, the US FIRST National VISTA Project heads into its second year with 50 AmeriCorps VISTA members in 26 states across the nation. FIRST engages young people in mentor-based Lego and robotics programs to build their science, engineering, and technology skills. The FIRST VISTA project helps the organization expand its programs in low-income and underserved communities through outreach and recruitment efforts. During its first year, VISTA members placed more than 1,500 low-income participants in FIRST programs. More than half of the participants came from low achieving schools that receive improvement grants from the U.S. Department of Education. Research shows the likelihood to pursue a STEM degree increases when combining hands-on science experiences with mentorship, particularly for low-income youth and girls. Through the efforts of VISTAs, more than 380 youth were matched with adult mentors. VISTAs also play a critical role in fundraising to support low-income FIRST teams. In the project's first year, VISTAs helped raise more than \$382,000 in cash and in-kind resources.

The AmeriCorps VISTA program run by Families in Transition places VISTA members in nonprofit organizations across the state that fight against hunger, homelessness, and poverty. Whether the VISTAs collaborate to build a community garden, apply for grant funds, or recruit migrant families for a volunteer tutor program, they create solutions to New Hampshire's pressing social problems. Their focus on capacity building efforts—researching, recruiting volunteers, program building, and fundraising—strengthens nonprofit programs and services and ensures that resources will be available to those in need long-term. In 2014, a team of 28 VISTAs raised nearly \$309,000 in cash and \$119,000 in in-kind donations, recruited more than 1,600 volunteers, and helped manage more than 5,000 volunteers who contributed more than 50,600 hours of service to nonprofit organizations. The team helped 334 nonprofit and government entities increase their capacity to provide housing and services for those experiencing homelessness, expand opportunities for car ownership for low-income individuals, and offer additional resources such as food, health services, and job fairs for the homeless and veterans.

AmeriCorps NCCC

The mission of the Southern District YMCA, for 88 years, is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy mind, body and spirit for all. The AmeriCorps NCCC members served as facilitators and counselors to work with children aged 3-15 years in a summer camp setting. The members modeled the character traits of caring, respect, honesty and responsibility in all of their actions and dialogs with fellow staffers and campers. Additionally the members assisted with maintenance, facility and outdoor projects such as widen on-site trails, repairing and replacing split-rail fences, clearing brush, and painting cabins.

As the only food bank in the state, the New Hampshire Food Bank strives to feed hungry people by soliciting and effectively distributing grocery products, perishable foods and services through a statewide network of more than 400 approved agencies; by advocating for systemic change; and by educating the public about the nature of and solutions to hunger in New Hampshire. NCCC members worked with the Food Bank's Production Garden, practicing organic methods to perform garden and plant care. In addition, the team was responsible for managing youth, corporate, and church groups that volunteer at the garden. The work the members accomplished will allow the NH Food Bank to yield more high quality food for New Hampshire families and help to sustain a volunteer program that will draw in and keep community members involved in producing healthy foods. The team members enhance their volunteer management skills, have the opportunity to experience the impact of the food bank on communities and individuals who face the reality of hunger, and develop gardening skills that will give them the knowledge to be able to grow their own personal garden in the future.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

The Friends Program based in Concord has served the needs of at-risk youth in New Hampshire since 1984 through its Friends Foster Grandparent Program. In the program, 146 low-income seniors serve state-wide to mentor special needs children. Last year, 110 Foster Grandparents served on average 20 hours a week in 52 elementary schools throughout New Hampshire, helping more than 2,000 at-risk students with reading skills, resulting in 95 percent of the students showing moderate to substantial improvement in three to four areas of reading skills. Another 36 Foster Grandparents helped mentor children at least two hours per week, resulting in 85 percent of these children with improved emotional development, 94 percent had improved behavior, and 95 percent improved academic engagement. In 2014, Friends Foster Grandparents served more than 50,000 hours helping at-risk youth throughout New Hampshire.

Senior Corps RSVP

Monadnock RSVP has been at the forefront of meeting critical needs through volunteer service in Cheshire and Western Hillsborough County, as well as providing meaningful opportunities to adults 55+ since 1974. Currently hosting 300 volunteers, Monadnock RSVP works closely with community partners to provide services in the areas of education, healthy futures, disaster services, veterans and military families, and capacity building. The America Reads Program is a true highlight for this RSVP project. In the Monadnock Region, New England Common Assessment Program scores indicate that 22-25 percent of students entering the 4th grade have reading scores below grade level proficiency. Trained RSVP volunteers are placed in schools to provide individualized tutoring to students in grades K-3 leading to improved school readiness and literacy skills. Survey results from teachers demonstrated 93 percent of students tutored increased their interest in reading and 94 percent had improved reading skills. In 2013-2014, 60 RSVP volunteers tutored more than 900 children in reading and writing in 11 elementary schools in the Monadnock Region.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

One of New Hampshire's fastest growing population groups is seniors who need regular assistance to remain independent in their homes. The New Hampshire Senior Companion Program provides the kind of frequent and regular support that increases stability, prevents physical and mental decline, and promotes independence. Seventy-seven Senior Companion volunteers provide critical functions to more than 370 seniors including transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping and essential errands, light meal preparation, and information referral. More than 140 of the clients served are veterans. Additionally, 64 caregivers receive much needed support and respite services. Many volunteers go above and beyond their assignments. One of the many examples includes a volunteer who helped secure a disconnected cell phone for a client and enroll her in a LifeAlert program that has brought peace of mind to the client and her family. Furthermore, this volunteer introduced alternative methods of transportation outside of the Senior Companion.